

Governor's Workforce Investment Board Workforce System Committee

**Conference Call
March 9, 2006**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Robbe Lindsay; Thomas Curry; Jody Messinger; Joan Miles; Rodney Miller; Fred Sargeson; and Alan Skari.

Committee Members Absent: Julie Jordan and Teresa Wall-McDonald.

Staff: Pam Watson, Chris Wilhelm, and Jessica Snyder.

Guests: Shannon Harrison; Rebecca Engum; Cherelee Martin; Todd Younkin; Jay Reardon; and Al Ekblad.

Welcome and Introductions

Fred Sargeson served as acting Chair and called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Jessica Snyder conducted roll call and Pam Watson reviewed the documents in member's packets.

Approve Agenda

Jody Messinger asked if an update regarding the High School Initiative could be added. Pam Watson asked if an update regarding the reallocation of funds could also be added. The committee through consensus approved the agenda with two additions. Robbe Lindsay joined the meeting via conference call, and asked Fred Sargeson to continue serving as chair since Mr. Sargeson was attending the meeting in person.

Career Clusters

George Burns, Perkins Specialist for the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), reported a career cluster is a grouping of industries with commonalities. OCHE is working towards organizing curriculum in secondary and post secondary education to align with career clusters. Mr. Burns reported OCHE was awarded four grants in Program Year 2004 for post secondary education to develop curriculums. Four schools received the grant money; Montana College of Technology to develop health science curriculum, Flathead Valley Community College to develop manufacturing curriculum, Great Falls College of Technology to develop Art Entrepreneurship curriculum, and Miles Community College to develop Arts in Rural Community Colleges curriculum. In Program Year 2005, two grants were awarded to implement the curriculums developed. Montana Tech and Flathead Valley Community College implemented the curriculums they developed. Mr. Burns reported the funding for Program Year 2006 is still unclear but the development of career clusters is a priority. One hundred eighty people attended the Career Clusters Conference and developed three directives: the students' interest should be paramount at all times; the state education agencies should coordinate the development of the career clusters; and stakeholders should be carefully selected and developed professionally. A Career Clusters Steering Committee has since been developed to carry out the directives. The Steering Committee has developed actions to ensure partner and stakeholder engagement, create pathways to develop career clusters, and design professional development for people key in the development of career clusters. A meeting will be held the week of March 14, 2006 to move forward on these actions steps.

High School Initiative

Jody Messinger reported Linda Peterson and Ms. Messinger were the lead staff for the High School Initiative. Career clusters will be developed in the high school curriculum to assist with the challenges of increasing achievement and lowering the drop out rate in the high schools. Education is relevant and career pathways assist with enforcing the relevance of education and how important

it is. Ms. Messinger stated she hoped to launch the Initiative at the Fall Conference that would be attended by school administrators, teachers, and counselors. Through the Fall Conference, Ms. Messinger was hoping for buy-in from many partners to work on a common theme.

IPI Project Update

Ingrid Childress reported the Integrated Performance Information (IPI) project would allow agencies to share performance information and gather complete information regarding workforce development issues. Currently, this information cannot be compiled together to get a complete picture. IPI would report performance result across programs with consistent measures. IPI would allow Montana to respond to policy makers, legislators, and administrators about the workforce in Montana. Currently, research is being done regarding funding analysts and technicians to develop how to evaluate and collect the information. The process would be to develop a test model tracking a small population for a few years and then evaluate the information, cost, benefits, and barriers. If the test model proves beneficial, legislation would then be developed to pursue funding and structure for the project. Ms. Childress reported there is a lot of data that doesn't talk to each other and compiling all the information would improve the system, policy, and design.

Jody Messinger asked if there would be an opportunity to present on the individual student system. Ms. Childress stated the Office of Public Instruction is developing a new system while the rest of the agencies have to work with the data collection systems they have.

Montana's Historical WIA Funding

Pam Watson presented the historical funding sheet, which showed the funding Montana has received each year since 2000 when WIA went into effect.

Conferencing Capabilities

Chairman Robbe Lindsay reported that he had done some research on MET NET and Vision Net for video conferencing options. Mr. Lindsay wanted to do more research on Mega Meeting and Microsoft Meeting.

Al Ekblad stated that he would be willing to do a presentation for the committee at the next meeting on Mega Meeting. Fred Sargeson stated that Ready Talk was an option for smaller group meetings because it holds a copy of the discussion. Pam Watson stated she would coordinate with Mr. Lindsay and additional information would be presented at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The committee agreed to postpone scheduling the next meeting until the SWIB meeting scheduled in May is confirmed. It was agreed to meet in conjunction with the full SWIB.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.